Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Affiliated Clubs Newsletter! The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you, the ARRL affiliated clubs of Mississippi, informed about news and events of interest. It is important that we tell our story and this is but one means of doing just that.

My intent is to initially publish this bimonthly. The primary focus will be clubs and club activities, but anything (within reason) is fair game. Future newsletters will feature club spotlights, answers to questions, hints and tips for healthy clubs, and other items of interest. Anyone is welcome to suggest topics and contribute stories. Amateur Radio is, after all, a group activity.

This initial newsletter may be a little lean, but I wanted to get something out and start the publication cycle. Field Day is approaching and once again our Governor has declared the week as Amateur Radio Week. The text of the proclamation is included here. Special Service Clubs are leaders of the Amateur Radio community, and we can use a few more. See what is required to become one.

Also, the section has developed a trifold flyer featuring all our clubs. The outside of the trifold contains general information on ARRL clubs and the services they provide. The inside contains a map of all Mississippi affiliated clubs, their specialties, and websites (the map is reproduced on the reverse of this newsletter).

Club officers, Emergency Coordinators, and Public Information Officers will find the trifold useful when explaining our role in the community. Clubs can also use it as part of their recruiting and public affairs efforts. Limited quantities of the trifold will be printed. A Portable Document Format (PDF) reproduction will be available for download on the section website. Look for other such materials to be developed in the future.

Finally, I want to introduce myself as the new Affiliated Club Coordinator for the section. I hope to visit every club in the next year and hear about the great things you are doing for your members and Amateur Radio. I am here to assist any way I can. If there is anything I can do to help, please let me know.

--Scott Larsen, W5VMS

GOVERNOR’S FIELD DAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, there are more than four thousand licensed Amateur Radio operators in the State of Mississippi who have demonstrated their invaluable public assistance by providing emergency radio communications; and

WHEREAS, these Amateur Radio operators donate their services free of charge to their communities; and

WHEREAS, these Amateur Radio operators are prepared for any emergency, local or world-wide; and

WHEREAS, The American Radio Relay League’s Field Day, June 27 and 28, 2020, provides Amateur Radio operators the opportunity to practice their communication skills and test their preparedness:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim the week beginning June 22 and ending June 28, 2020, as AMATEUR RADIO WEEK in the State of Mississippi.

A copy of this proclamation is available on the section website: http://arrlmiss.org/Governor_s_Proclamation_2020.pdf.

BECOME A SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

Think your club has the right stuff? Consider becoming a Special Service Club (SSC). Special Service Clubs are the leaders in community-oriented Amateur Radio activities, providing active training classes, publicity programs, technical projects and operating activities.

The ARRL created the SSC Program to establish a more visible, more effective presence for Amateur Radio and the ARRL locally. The goal is to ensure that necessary skills exist and local resources are organized for an effective response to any local situation where Amateur Radio can contribute as a public service, or can benefit from positive exposure. Special Service Clubs demonstrate a commitment above and beyond the requirements for other affiliated clubs in training and continuing education, public relations, emergency communications, technical advancement, operating activities, and miscellaneous activities. A truly effective SSC will also go beyond the basic requirements and seek to broaden the Amateur Radio experience and capabilities of its members. In order to participate, a club must commit itself to establish a more effective local presence for Amateur Radio for a period of twelve months.

Clubs can apply online at www.arrl.org/ssc-application. Your club must have an up-to-date ARRL affiliation record before applying to become an SSC. Also note that once approved, SSC status requires renewal every two years.